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FDA/Dockets Mngmat. Branch (HFA-305)

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5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

I am writing regarding Docket # 97N-0074, addressing food safety. I am asking that the conditions of the raising of food animals be given some consideration when food safety improvements are suggested.

I have nearly given up carnivorous eating, which means that my family has as well. I don't know that we eat meat even once a week. One of the factors affecting my increasing distaste for meat is the thought of conditions under which food animals are frequently bred and raised. I have heard enough - and seen enough - about the cattle, pork, and poultry operations to completely undermine my confidence in the USDA certification process. I have heard the most disgusting stories of abuse and of (excessively) unsanitary conditions at slaughterhouses from regular people (not in the animal rights movement) who have either worked in them or who have entered in the course of their own jobs. I wish - I really, really wish - that more inspectors could be hired, that harsher penalties could be enacted, and that some sort of humane campaign among workers could be initiated. This is where our food supply begins! I won't eat animals that have been unhealthily confined, crammed with chemicals, raped with sticks, deprived of veterinary care, and, after butchering, been on a dirty, muddy bloody floor. I will not eat diseased or bruised animals. Most of all, I will not support the excesses of an industry that by its nature is already unpleasant. If I never eat McDonald's again that's fine by me.

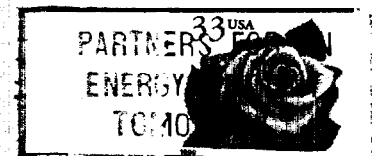
I don't wish to be negative, but I'm very turned off by the meat industry right now. Please keep these issues in mind.

97N-0074

Thank you - Cherie Bracwell

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